IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS MARSHALL DIVISION

| GEOTAG, INC., | |
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| v. | 2:10-cv-265 |
| FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORP., et al., | |
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DEFENDANT'S RESPONSE TO PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Defendant 24 Hour Fitness Worldwide, Inc. respectfully opposes GeoTag's Motion for Extension of Time to Secure New Counsel. (*See*, *e.g.*, Case No. 2:10-cv-570, Dkt. No. 510 ("Motion")). GeoTag's Motion demonstrates that it has not complied and will likely not comply with this Court's recent Order. Accordingly, Defendants respectfully request that the Court enforce its Order and dismiss these cases absent the appearance by September 13th of counsel fully able to prosecute these cases.

In the Court's August 30, 2012 Order Denying Motions to Withdraw As Counsel, the Court stated that it would "not grant withdrawal without substitute counsel <u>capable of prosecuting Plaintiff's claims</u> within the scheduled time frame." (*See*, *e.g.*, Case No. 2:10-cv-570, Dkt. No. 505 ("Order") at 15 (emphasis added)). By filing the present Motion for more

time to find counsel able to prosecute its claims, and by making clear that it has only retained "local counsel," GeoTag admits that it is not in compliance with the Court's Order.¹

Moreover, the reasons stated in support of GeoTag's Motion do not provide any legitimate basis for failing to comply with the Court's Order and do not demonstrate good cause for the requested extension. For instance, the "size, scope and complexity" of the litigation are not recent events that legitimately impeded GeoTag's search for substitute counsel. GeoTag has had numerous law firms previously involved in this dispute, but has relieved all of them of their duties.² Indeed, last August when these cases already had several hundred defendants, GeoTag had its then-counsel withdraw and substituted in the two firms that now presently seek to

- Friedman Suder & Cooke Terminated November 8, 2010;
- Knisely, Prehoditch & Panzer, PC Terminated November 8, 2010;
- Collins Edmonds & Pogorzelski, PLLC Terminated August 5, 2011;
- Charles van Cleef, Attorney at Law, PC Terminated August 5, 2011;
- Ireland Carroll & Kelley Terminated August 10, 2011;
- Buether Joe & Carpenter, LLC Seeking Withdrawal as of August 29, 2012; and
- The Ni Law Firm PLLC Seeking Withdrawal as of August 29, 2012.

During a telephonic meet-and-confer held on September 10, 2012, Mr. Andrew Spangler—who has entered an appearance as local counsel on behalf of GeoTag—indicated to Defendants that he had not been retained for the purpose of prosecuting GeoTag's claims. Moreover, Mr. Spangler's recent Notice of Appearance filed with this Court confirms that he has been retained only "as local counsel." (*See*, *e.g.*, Case No. 2:10-cv-570, Dkt. No. 509).

In addition, the Motion confirms that GeoTag retained Mr. Spangler to only "act as local counsel" while GeoTag requests "an additional 14 days to assemble its full team of lead counsel" who would ostensibly be tasked with prosecuting this case within the scheduled time frame. (Motion at 28). Indeed, GeoTag's Proposed Order requests an extension of time "to retain new counsel capable of prosecuting Plaintiff's claims." (Motion at Proposed Order).

For instance, as indicated by the docket sheet, the following firms have entered appearances on behalf of GeoTag and been subsequently terminated in *GeoTag Inc. v. Yellowpages.com LLC*, Case No. 2:10-cv-272 (the following list does not include all firms that have entered appearances and been subsequently terminated in other GeoTag cases):

withdraw.³ GeoTag was aware of the complexities associated with finding and retaining suitable counsel at least as of that time. Further, any issues of scope and complexity are the result of GeoTag's strategic decision to simultaneously sue hundreds of parties. GeoTag should not be permitted to fail to comply with Court Orders and continue to delay the prosecution of these cases based on an alleged "complexity" hardship that GeoTag itself has caused. *See Finisar Corp. v. DirecTV Group, Inc.*, 424 F. Supp. 2d 896, 900 (E.D. Tex. 2006) (request for delay of deadline denied because reason for delay was "fully in control of" movant).

Therefore, it is clear that GeoTag has not yet retained substitute counsel fully able to prosecute its claims as required by the Court's Order. Accordingly, the under-signed Defendants respectfully request that the Court deny GeoTag's Motion for Extension of Time to Secure New Counsel, and, unless GeoTag fully complies with the Court's Order by September 13, 2012, that the above-captioned cases be dismissed.

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See, e.g., Case No. 2:10-cv-570, Dkt. No. 294 (requesting substitution of the Ni Law Firm, PLLC for Collins, Edmonds & Pogorzelski, PLLC and Cooper & Van Cleef, PLLC), and Case No. 2:10-cv-571, Dkt. No. 253 (requesting substitution of Buether Joe & Carpenter, LLC for Collins, Edmonds & Pogorzelski, PLLC and Cooper & Van Cleef, PLLC).

Dated: September 11, 2012 Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Adam D. Swain

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COUNSEL FOR DEFENDANT 24 HOUR FITNESS WORLDWIDE INC.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing document has been served on September 11, 2012, to all counsel of record who are deemed to have consented to electronic service via the Court's CM/ECF system per Local Rule CV-5(a)(3).

/s/ Adam D Swain

Adam D. Swain